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THE "IS IT SPRING BREAK YET?" ISSUE

# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

26 February 2010

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**CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**

**AKA FEBRUARY IS BORING**  
By YOU!  
(A Valued Reader)

In the wake of Monday's tumultuous events, the students and faculty of Montgomery Bell Academy were stricken by a plethora of mixed emotions.

At (time) Monday

Morning, event that would have made February actually interesting.

Upon arriving at school, Students were shocked by the aftermath.

"Less than insightful remarks."

commented (a hapless freshman), the first to arrive on the scene.

The administration acted quickly; by Headmaster (Interim) Brad (nickname) Gioia had (catastrophic and convoluted action) Havoey. Mr. Jones, (sorry, no choice here), was a voice of calm, saying: "Submit your best responses to the Bell Ringer for **SUPER** prizes!!!!!!"

Doodled ... Use your noodle!

By Macin Davis ('12)

## Swimming & Diving wins historic state title

By Alex Apple  
Co-Sports Editor

MBA's swimming program has been sending athletes to swim in college for years. Each year the team seems to have one or two guys shattering records and going on to swim at major universities. Recently MBA has sent swimmers like Van Diehl, Paul Crook, Curtis Lovelace, and Paschall Davis to swim at major universities. However, as a team, the story was one that always seemed to be the same: second place to Baylor.

The team seemed never to be deep enough or strong in enough events to take the team crown. 2010 was different.

The 2010 team was undoubtedly led by seniors Jack Murfee, Seth Akers-Campbell, and Pat Killian, as everyone knew all three would go on to swim in college. What made this team special, however, was its depth. Killian said of the team, "While we've had stand-outs, they never had enough support - the depth that's really the key to success in such a large sport."

The team depth owed a lot to seniors Rob Higham and Tyler Leroy, who came

back to the squad after a two-year lay-off. In addition, Hoke Smith and Mikey Reid gave the Big Red its strongest diving team ever.

In talking with Murfee and Akers-Campbell, they echoed Pat's remarks. Seth agreed, saying, "We have had depth the last two years, and we have had a series of superstar state record-holders the past decade, but we finally put it all together this year."

Murfee added, "This year we all grew up and functioned as a team instead of a few stars."

At the state championship meet, the team knew that they would have to swim their best to beat Baylor. Last year, Baylor won the state title, but they lost a range of swimmers, which left them vulnerable and very beatable. After carrying a slim 20 point lead after day one at the state meet, the Big Red blew the other teams away on day two.

In talking about wrapping up the title on day two, Pat Killian said, "I think the 400 free relay at the end of the meet says it all: the championship was in the bag, but two freshman, a sophomore and I, a senior captain, weren't content with letting the



The team celebrates its first state championship, only the third for a team out of Chattanooga. At State, the swimmers and divers set one state record and recorded eleven All-American performances. Photo courtesy of Dr. Thomas Killian.

race go. We all swam hard and came out on top." under the leadership of third-year coach

The team was absolutely relentless

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## THE BELL RINGER

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## Just say No : Embracing the liberal slander

By Aaron Lutkowitz  
Staff Opinions Writer

Despite the landslide victories for Democrats in the nation's capital since 2006, many Democrats fear, correctly, that in today's political climate, their party could be destined for trouble.

Effective political action, like reaching across the aisle, hasn't sunk in well for the Democratic Party in Congress or the White House. Instead, they have resorted to name-calling by referring to the Republican Party as the "Party of No."

Such negative mud-slinging is nothing new. President Obama called the Tea Party "tea baggers," but the movement has been growing ever since. Similarly, the Republican Party should view these "Party of No" campaigns as signs of desperation from a poorly organized Democratic Party with a weak platform of initiatives. More importantly, embracing themselves as the party of opposition will ensure further victories – landslides, even – for the Republican Party.

The Democrats employed

this winning strategy just four years ago. In 2006, as President Bush's poll numbers sank faster than the levees in New Orleans, the Democrats' angle was simple: we are the party without Bush's blunders. Campaigns in 2006 and 2008 were based not in core Democratic principles, but in decidedly anti-Bush doctrines. McCain, to have even a sliver of hope in the 2008 election, declared himself a "maverick," despite his obvious policy similarities with Bush.

The Democrats, champions of government overindulgence, used opposition to their advantage. The potential for Republicans, already entrenched in ideals against government growth, is far greater.

Republicans used fervent opposition to Democrats in several landslide elections for their party – most recently in 1980 and 1994. Both instances led to decade-long resurgences in Republican political domination. 2010, if planned correctly, could be the next phase of Republicans leading the future.

The mantra of "The Party of No" may actually be a gift for Republicans. The longer Democrats embrace these criticisms, the farther they will sink in

midterm and presidential elections.

The Democrats criticize Republican obstructionism, but their own party shares quite a bit of the blame. Democrats created such partisan bills that even the most moderate Republicans – and several Blue Dog Democrats – had legislative qualms about supporting Senate and House bills on climate change and healthcare. Democrats promising the end of "Old Politics" and the renewal of transparency utilized back-door deals and pork-barrel legislation to win over a few votes. Republicans argue that these are the exact factors to which they are saying "No."

The Democrats for their own sake should stop decrying the moderation and fiscal conservatism that the "Party of No" represents. But it may be too late. Republicans have already embraced "No."



## Yes We (still) Can :

### Power of "No" can be easily overcome

Since early January of 2009, the Democrats have held the Presidency and both houses of Congress in a supermajority unseen in years. In the Senate, particularly, the Democrats snagged those magic 60 votes necessary to prevent any filibuster. In response to these overwhelming Democratic advantages, the Republicans have adopted what amounts to a platform of "No" to everything on the Democratic agenda.

While the Democrats have, thus far, failed to capitalize on their advantages in Washington, that failure has little to do with GOP strategy. Yes, opposing everything Obama did in his first year has appeared to work as a political

gambit; that apparent success does not, however, make it a sound strategy going forward or even a sound strategy in hindsight. The Democrats have yet to make real progress on their agenda because they have failed to run the country effectively, not because the GOP strategy was groundbreaking or because the Republican Party offers better alternatives on healthcare, climate, or the economy. The Democrats can regain momentum in several ways.

First, they need to choose between partisanship and bipartisanship. To be clear, partisanship involves uniting the Democratic Party behind a bill – which did not occur on healthcare – and ramming it through the Congress. At the moment, the Democrats have enough votes to make the chorus of Republicans shouting "No!"

irrelevant. Bipartisanship, on the other hand, involves reaching across the aisle and making real progress. By reaching out to the GOP, the Democrats would expose the GOP's platform for what it really is: a political gimmick that would collapse under the weight of a legitimate bipartisan push from the party in power. At the moment, Obama, Pelosi, and Reid cannot seem to agree on a strategy to pursue and instead straddle the line between bipartisanship and partisanship, which has doomed the Democrats thus far.

Second, the Democrats need to fire back at the GOP. The Democrats have allowed the Republicans to paint them as partisan socialist hacks while failing to call the GOP similarly ridiculous names. Opposing everything on the Democratic agenda is obviously a weak strategy that could ensure long-term political gridlock; instead of lamely calling the Republicans the "Party of No," the Democrats should attack the Republicans on the issues and ask them to present better alternatives on jobs, healthcare, and climate. While firing a proverbial broadside at Fox News caused backlash against Obama, his idea was the correct one. Obama and the Democrats should directly address the attacks of the Tea Party, Sarah Palin, and Fox News.

Some losses are inevitable for the Democrats in the next round of elections. The bad economy and history tell us so. What isn't inevitable, though, is a broad failure of the Democratic agenda; if the Democrats confront their problems head on, they can right the ship.



## Grantees set for summer travels and studies

By Scott Blackwell  
Staff Writer

Twenty-five MBA sophomores and juniors have been chosen to receive Wilson Grants for Foreign Language Immersion. The Wilson family, which forty years ago donated the funds to build the Patrick Wilson Library, has given \$160,000 this year for our language students to travel abroad this summer to improve their oral/aural skills and cultural knowledge of their language of study.

This year MBA is sending twenty-five students to at least eight different countries to study Spanish, French, German, or Chinese. Additionally, two students studying Latin will go to Rome in order to learn more about the culture and history of the ancient Romans.

When asked about these grants, Mr. Anderson Gaither, the head of the foreign language department at MBA, said, "The language department at MBA is very grateful to the Wilson family for their gift to the school; these students will bring so much back to the classrooms next fall and will add a dimension to our language classes that no school in the country can match."

Each student will receive from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for transportation and for the program selected.

The selection process was very rigorous, as the students were required to fill out an application and write an essay. The teachers of the specific language made initial

selections, and the language department as a whole voted on the final students. Headmaster Brad Gioia and Mr. Gaither then made the final approval of the selections.

Indeed the scale of such an opportunity is unmatched, as about one-half of the applicants were selected and awarded the grants. Most students this year will be traveling with the Experiment in International Living, though there are some other programs such as Amigos de las Americas and Academic Treks that a few recipients will use as well. The two Latin students will use the St. Stephen's/Brown University program for their trip.

As this is the first year the students have been given this opportunity, there is not yet much variability in the programs, but MBA expects to use a wider variety of programs next year. The students are also extremely excited about these grants, and I recently got a chance to hear from a few of them.

When asked how he felt about being given the grant, Nick Bessette said, "I'm extremely excited to have received the Wilson Grant. I feel that spending 5 weeks of my summer in Ecuador will teach me more about myself than I could ever learn here in the U.S. My knowledge of the Spanish language will flourish and will help me immensely in AP Spanish Literature."

"Being away from my home and the things I'm comfortable with will force me to try new things and explore my interests," he added. "The program in Ecuador is very

much ecological, and I'm really hoping to get a perspective on what possible careers within that field interest me."

Patrick Duffey summarized the recipients' reaction to the grants: "The Wil-

son Grants are the best thing since sliced bread."

Congratulations to everyone who received a Wilson Grant this year and good luck in your travels this summer!

### Recipients & Destinations

Nick Bessette	Ecuador
Cullen Moran	Panama
Tyler Cauble, Scott Gould	Argentina
Ryan Hill, David Arteaga, Edward Wilson	Spain
Connor Caldwell, Paul Van Pernis, Alex Austin, Patrick Duffey, William Flatt, Scott Blackwell	Costa Rica
Paul Baker, Douglas McWilliams, Franklin Gaglione, Rob Edwards, Baker Swain	France
Ian Sharbel, Will Granberry, Cedric Smith	China
Will McCaskill, Jack Keller	Germany
Will Stewart, Jack Whitson	Rome

## SciOly preps for State

By Paul Moore  
Staff Writer

Zach Chen, Bryan Oslin, Karthik Sastry, and Joe Scherrer. They are joined by 9th-grader Adam Bowman.

The team will head to MTSU on Feb. 27 for the regional competition, and to UT Knoxville on Mar. 27 for the state competition. All the members of the team feel that this is one of the strongest years ever for MBA.

MBA Division C won the state competition three years ago, when the seniors were 9th-graders.

Should the team triumph again this year they will continue on to the national championship at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

### Math League update

After a third city contest, MBA is leading in the subjects of Algebra II and Statistics. MBA is close behind in Geometry and Pre-Calculus. The team has an outside chance to take the lead in the subjects of Algebra I and Calculus.

The team is heading into the last city competition and then on to state, which is held in April.

The MBA team consists of seniors Seth Akers-Campbell, Kevin Carr, Richard Wall, and Michal Zienkiewicz. MBA also offers strong competitors from the junior class, in Connor Caldwell, Carter Callaway, Andrew Powell, and Wentao Zhang.

Sophomore team members are Myles Anderson, David Arteaga, Weston Bell,

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## Class of 2010 breaking hearts, setting records

By Will Henry  
co-Entertainment Editor

The Class of 2010 is always doing big things, as if it's in its nature to be great. In the heart of darkness of this world, the senior class will always be a beacon of pure, untainted light. I apologize for alluding to that book.

But, it's true, the seniors are great. For instance, Jeff Nutkis got a new haircut—3 on the top, 2 on the side. Can anyone say classy?

Seniors Sam Berklaich, George Curtis, Nate Smith, Keesler Sanders, Morgan Cram, Matt Bracy, and Andrew Holmgren are leading the varsity lacrosse team this season, with Daniel White, recently accepted to the prestigious Morehouse College, managing. The team is expecting a state championship this year. They have a scrimmage at McCallie on February 26th and a home game on February 27th against St. Xavier. Everyone should come out to the games!

Steven Gaittens, Kyle Brantley, and Sam Moxley led the Ultimate Frisbee team to a semi-final berth at the Polar Bear 2010 Ultimate Tournament.

In wrestling, Daniel Todd completed the arithmetic sequence he started sophomore year with his 3rd-place state finish and continued by his 2nd-place finish last year.

John Donlon is looking to start his with a 3rd-place finish this year. Fingers crossed.

Continuing the theme of sports, Pat Killian, Tyler Leroy, Lee Grubbs, Jack Murfee, Mikey Reid, Seth Akers-Campbell, and Rob Higham all are really excited by their swimming State Championships. I hope it was worth cutting off the hair, Pat. Where you keeping the fro pick now?

In a little segment I call "Blast from the Past," I'd like to give a shout-out to the infamous David McGuire, a.k.a. Gunther. Rumor has it that D-mac, who left all his friends at MBA behind after fighting the marine, Jack Kaiser, at graduation freshman year, just got kicked out of Brentwood High School for getting into too many fights. Unbeknownst to all of MBA, that guy apparently had a chip on his shoulder. Quick story time: one Monday in freshman biology, David told me that earlier that weekend at the mall he "hacked into the Apple Store's mainframe and changed all the computers' passwords to 'doo-doo.'" I always knew that kid was going places.

It pains me to report that Alex Snow, the Class of 2010's favorite skirt chaser, is no longer talking to the illustrious O-Chan. But, I am delighted to report that Jack Mufee and Fitz Lassing are hot on her scent, like two sharks at the smell of fresh blood. May the best man win.

Speaking of best men, Jackson



Roger Briggs, Naveen Chadalavada, and Brad Bars sign college athletic commitments. True to form, Naveen wore a red tie and green hat, which, much like his favorite dark blue/light blue/electric salmon polo, were perfectly mismatched.  
Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

Roberts thinks that people still do not believe him. So, he wants to reiterate that he, in fact, does not hold grudges. People, believe him!

The stud Mock Trial team of Alex Karpas, George Curtis, Nate Smith, Turner Henderson, Eric Mace, Lewis Armistead, Patrick Clarke, Joshua Liang, and Drew Daniele, simply put, ran train at

this year's conference. Turner Henderson won best-looking delegate. Congrats.

In other news, Zach Sternberg presses buttons and makes the lights move, Patrick Lovett likes puppies, Mitchell Lukens likes bones, John Lowe, the love of the fans, still hasn't missed a three in warm-ups, and Charles Herron is perpetually grooving.

## Sophomores decide it's just a building year

By Joe Scherrer  
(with help from Will Stewart)  
Staff News Writer

Amid the research paper, failing economy, and Iranian nuclear threats, a dim, feeble ray of light shines: the MBA Class of 2012. Here's some more of that good ole' news that ya'll've been waiting for.

A sophomore, preferring to remain unnamed, recently crashed his car. Henry Richardson, an eyewitness reported, "It was awful, for everyone, emotionally and physically."

Karthik Sastry, in an effort to see how the other half lives, tried being a slob for a while, but found it emotionally upsetting, and went back to being "plain ole' awesome."

Matt Anderson looked intense and

continued to twist his arms into pretzels while sitting in Spanish Class.

Jack Whitson and Clay Cauble were reported to be singing Creed to a giggling Baker Swain.

John Mark Bellet lost his voice, but it didn't stop him from making disturbing inhuman noises throughout English class.

Zach Chen gave a triumphant fist pump every time Dr. Bailey mentioned China in American History AP.

Gray Curtis played Xbox.

Juan Noboa is the new exchange student from Colombia. He says Taco Bell is disgusting, but, contrary to popular belief, Americans aren't fat.

Palmer Campbell claims to yet again "be playing for keeps."

Though still a bit skeptical, Baker Swain has finally accepted the fact that his

brother has left to go to BGA.

Hxq3js%94w Hooper complained that his name was misspelled in the last issue. How silly of me.

The igloo lasted two weeks. Eric Walsh wants attention and claims he made it.

Gray Jones is "doing conservative stuff." Adam Hobbs says "I'm a new-left liberal." Mr. Herring says, "I'm a hippie."

Adam Hawiger, while trying to slaughter an ostrich with his Czech cousins for his sandwich, cut off its head but still managed to let the body run three blocks down the street and terrorize school children. Next time he's going to try electrocution with a Tesla coil.

This news column is beginning to make less and less sense. Tune in next time for...more news.



Eric Walsh, Will Stewart, and other students constructed an igloo on campus during the epic 4-day snow break; the igloo, the remnant of which lasted two weeks, is arguably the class's greatest accomplishment.

## Freshmen set to hibernate till Spring Break

By McLean Hudson  
Staff Writer

With the sun actually shining for the first time in months, the freshmen of MBA are preparing for the home stretch of the 09-10 school year. Due to a couple of lucky snows, we've had six weeks of four days or less. Still, freshmen everywhere are selling out for spring break. Of course, freshmen will once again bull-rush Florida's towns of Destin, Rosemary, Seaside, and Watercolor, though destinations for the much anticipated break still vary widely: Andrew Dobbs is going to Panama, George Swenson to Stan-

ford (to visit his brother), Clay Ramsey to South Dakota (?), and an anonymous freshman is going to India. Brandon Key thinks he's staying home but he's still not sure...

A successful term of winter sports is now coming to a close, highlighted by MBA's first state swimming championship. Even a few freshmen contributed in this highly competitive meet: Andrew Dobbs place 8th in the 200 IM, while he and Tate Ramsden were on the winning 4x100 relay team.

Now the spring sports are rolling into play, and the freshmen are ready to go. Seventeen freshman made the baseball team

(varsity and JV TBD), twelve made the Lac team (all JV), and a seemingly unknown number made the soccer team (likely around twelve), with Jake the snake Simons, Trey Gill, Hayden Dakes, and Henry Lynch making varsity.

Mitchell Flautt and I had an atheist vs. Christian fight last week, surprisingly our first of the year.

Davidson White attempted to tell three stories in one period. The topic of each story is still in question due to Davidson's uncontrollable laughter throughout the stories.

An odd movie short was viewed by

a certain class last Friday; if you are ever annoyed and upset, make a point to search "Spider" on youtube. It'll make you laugh (in a sadistic kind of way).

Westminster emerged victorious in the 2010 church ball season, capping a season of highs and lows for many of MBA's freshmen, for over half of the teams in the league had one of our own on their roster.

Good luck on the home stretch of the school year, good luck in sports, and, in the words of Coach Anderson, don't be asinine.

## Juniors maliciously appropriate Senior Room

By Andrew Powell  
News Editor

A fortnight ago I found my long lost Rubik's cube. I could have told you that in my last issue, but then I wouldn't have gotten to use the word fortnight.

This just in! Two weeks ago, **Ryan Hill** ran at the Y and proceeded to make his favorite hot beverage: 1/2 cup hot water, 1/2 cup hot coffee, and 4/2 cup of hot cocoa mix! He drank it and felt good.

Within the lunchroom, in the breaks between intense curling action, debate rages over whether the seasoned tilapia or Cody is the superior fish. **Van East** argues the former (day and night!), and I wouldn't not un-disagree. Chea boy!

**Van East** is in love with a girl named TCU. He selected her over other Texas prospects such as Baylor and SMU. The wedding is set for Spring 2011.

In other words, **Mitchell "Sinatra" Shope** flew me to the moon with his stirring performance of "Fly Me to the Moon (In other words)" by **Frank Sinatra**.

Last Friday, **Miller** talked about Buckfest for a good 25 minutes. "Is anyone pumped for Buckfest? Yeah? ...just me? ....OK." **Max Werthan**: "No." Despite Max's pessimism, Buckfest was a big success, showcasing **Alex Blanton**'s rapping talents to the auditory backdrop of our very own **DJ Clay** and **DJ Greek**.

President of the MBA chess club, Max tells me chess fever has led to the First Annual Montgomery Bell Academy Chess Tournament. The 24-man tournament

promises to be the only event where, if you check yourself, you wreck yourself.

In a story of epic proportions, today **Harrison Luna** looked outside, saw nothing interesting, and went back to what he was doing before.

The dynamic duo of **Jarvis Werkhaven** and **Chase Lovelace** got after it at the State Swimming Championships, teaming up on the state-record-setting medley relay. Individually, Jarvis won the 200 IM (obviously, he got out fast) and was fourth in the 100 breast, a race in which Chase, despite being unable to train, took second. These guys were absolutely amazing and repaid the team, the school, and, most importantly, the junior class extremely well.

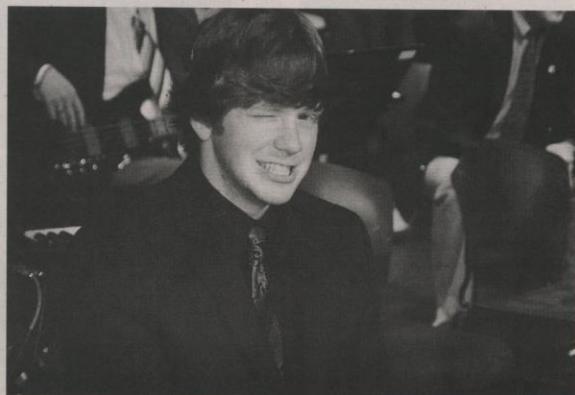
On the other end of the athletic spectrum, **Carter Callaway** is tearin' up FAST. **Thomas Moore**, beware, there is a new gun in town.

Recently, **Andrew Wright** stepped on a leaf that he expected to be crunchy and was disappointed when it made no noise.

**Ian Sharbel** leaked *Bell Ringer* some breaking news: MBA's motto is still Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete, and zombies still don't exist. That is quite a relief, Ian.

On that note, **Doug McWilliams** proudly announces that **Clay Garrett** and **Becca Factor** have tied the loop. Their wedding is scheduled for next year's Thanksgiving.

I would like to take this moment to refrain from making a joke about Nick's engagement and command him for how well he has handled the ridicule of classmates



**Mitchell Shope** winks seductively at the Jazz Band concert. This news column has taught me simply not to ask questions. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman.

and teachers alike.

**Sandy** recently bench-maxed 185, 15 times. He is truly a champion.

In an unconfirmed story, **Andrei "Lou-kay-see" Lucaci** holds the new school bench record. He also may hold the size record.

Breaking news: **Hiller Miggins** is already pumped for Buckfest next year!

While **Will Granberry** is diligently procrastinating, **Ford Altenbern** is in Paris....and mostly lost, he tells me. He also thinks **Kendal** likes him, cause, when you're Ford, you just know these things.

**MJ** ate at Provino's in Chattanooga.

No, not you, **Willy Quakes**.

In other news, **Nick Kohler** went to the great state of Iowa.

This just in: **Miller** killed a deer. He now has to be home before dark.

**Van** asks, "What do you sit on?" Answer: Furniture!

When asked to estimate how many times **Cullen Moran** and **Will Farrar** are at school on the same day, Fudge responded, "purple." Embarrassed, he quickly recanted, "Oh, sorry, I meant pancakes."

Confused yet? Thanks for the read.

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## Frostbitten climber conquers Everest on legs of steel

By Karthik Sastry  
Staff Writer

Ever since the Indian subcontinent collided with Asia, Everest has been rising, and for the past century man has been trying to conquer it. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay did it first in 1953; several have followed since, and many have lost their lives trying to do so. But of all the recorded ascents of Everest, Mark Inglis' stands out—he did it without legs.

A lifelong mountaineer, Inglis lost his legs to frostbite on a 1982 expedition on Mt. Cook in New Zealand, but his spirits were not vanquished. Fitted with prosthetic legs, Inglis climbed the world's highest peak in May 2006.

On March 9, Mr. Inglis will come to MBA and speak at the Father-Son dinner. I had a chance to interview him about his unique accomplishment.

**Bell Ringer:** Mark, tell us a little bit about your determination to climb Mt. Everest despite the loss of both legs.

**Mark Inglis:** I grew up as a mountaineer, hiking and climbing from the age of twelve, really. Mountaineering really teaches you to be positive and proactive, so Everest was just a natural goal, especially for a New Zealander as well.

**BR:** What specific preparations did you have to make before climbing Everest in light of your handicap?

**MI:** I designed a new set of Carbon Fiber climbing feet. My previous ones were alloy but with the cold on Everest, carbon is more reliable. I had to insulate the sockets as well. In essence I could climb Everest with my prosthetic legs that I wear everyday, but I do love innovation to test the limits of design.

**BR:** Did it ever cross your mind that failure could be a possibility?



Fitted with his personally designed prosthetics, Mark Inglis climbs on. A philanthropist and "adventurer," Inglis is scheduled to speak at MBA Father-Son Dinner on March 9.

**MI:** Always. Everest is a huge undertaking for anyone, but as a life-long mountaineer this is well thought-out beforehand—plan for the worst but strive for the best.

**BR:** Tell us about some of the trickiest aspects of your ascent.

**MI:** Three elements, really. One is just the length of time on the mountain—I reached the summit after 47 days, which is quick. That's 47 days of feeling ill constantly (acclimatizing to the altitude), trying to do everything dead right, training and resting properly, and just keeping the focus for all that time, because if you don't, then you will not make it. Second is the crux of the climb, which is a difficult overhanging rock climb on the summit ridge at 8600m, especially difficult at -50°C wearing all the down clothing and carrying oxygen. Thirdly, the last 50m to the top: it's not technically difficult, but it's extremely challenging just breathing and putting each foot in front of the other.

**BR:** What kind of support did you have from family and friends throughout the process?

**MI:** Great support from the family in that they let me do it! I climbed with three good friends, all experienced Everest mountaineers, to ensure I got the best advice.

**BR:** What do you do now?

**MI:** Lots of things. I am a business and motivational speaker around the world, I work with charities including my own (Limbs4All.com), and I am a consultant winemaker. On my visa and passport I call myself an "Adventurer."

**BR:** Would you recommend others with handicaps to attempt similar feats?

**MI:** Each person must do what they love; for me it is mountaineering. I believe we only ever grow when we push ourselves to do things outside of what others think of as our limits. Limits are just new goals, not yet achieved!

## Mock Trial Team (almost) sweeps city

By Will Stewart  
Staff Writer

While everyone else was sitting in class on Friday and sleeping in on Saturday, the MBA Mock Trial teams were at the Nashville courthouse, engaged in a battle of wits with students from around the city.

The Crimson team was headed by Campbell Haynes, who won Team MVP. Newcomer McKay Proctor indulged his redneck side by playing a dim-witted concrete tester, winning Best Defense Witness in the process. John Mellow and Jesse Suh also came out for the first time, with Suh as a lawyer and Mellow as a witness. Will Stewart served as a defense lawyer and a prosecution witness, and Jack Halleman served as a defense witness.

Thompson Barr spiced up the team's performance as a lawyer for both the prosecution and defense, while Adrian Carey performed his witness roles so well that one admirer told him he should go into comedy.

Memorable moments filled the third round, in which Campbell Haynes, noted to be "too aggressive to be likeable" by

some jurors, spent eleven minutes verbally sparring with a Harpeth Hall student. In the fourth round, McKay Proctor decided to act as the team's whistleblower, stopping the trial to accuse a David Lipscomb student of cheating.

Unfortunately, even with good performances from every member, the team somehow only managed to take 3rd place in the city, coming one rank short of moving on to the state tournament.

The MBA Silver team also performed admirably, comprised of seniors George Curtis, Alex Karpas, Drew Daniele, Lewis Armistead, Joshua Liang, Patrick Clarke, Turner Henderson, Nate Smith, Eric Mace, and sophomore Henry Richardson. Drew Daniele won Team MVP, and Lewis Armistead was inspiring as a witness. George Curtis notably gave a heartwarming, passionate closing argument to mark the end of his mock trial career.

Both teams would like to thank respective coaches Wade Cowan and The Dude, who went above and beyond the call of duty in coaching these teams.

Congratulations to newly college-bound athletes from the Class of 2010!

Ryan Venable  
Track  
High Point University



Jackson Roberts  
Baseball  
Rhodes College

## Rivals.com editor discusses a day in the life

By Kyle Brantley  
Co-Sports Editor

Last week, I had the honor and privilege of sitting down with Mr. Barton Simmons, an alumnus of MBA ('00) and a 2005 graduate of Yale. Mr. Simmons was a star athlete at MBA, attended Yale where he played football, and now works for *rivals.com*, the top recruiting database in the nation. He is one of the top six writers who actually determine how many "stars" a player receives and where that player is ranked nationally.

**Bell Ringer:** How did you first get involved with rivals?

**Barton Simmons:** After college I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I kind of wanted to get away from sports. So I went to D.C. and got a basic, out-of-college, white-collar job; I hated it. I wanted to get back involved with sports. I got my foot in the door and got an interview with *rivals* because a friend of my mom told her that *rivals* was based in Nashville and was hiring. I was a frontpage editor, a pretty tedious job that didn't have very good hours. I did that for a year, paid my dues, and got an opportunity to do something else that was more of a good fit.

**BR:** What's an average day at rivals like?

**Simmons:** It's hard to say because there is no basic day; every day really is different. From six to eight at night I'm making phone calls to prospects trying to get quotes. In the morning I'll write up those stories, check email, and watch film that's come in. I also spend a lot of time texting and talking with coaches that have info on players, coaches, and parents through email, phone, and text. A lot of it is writing. A lot of it is

evaluating. Some of it is organization-type stuff, like getting players together for events we're planning. I also make sure I work in a little ping-pong on the side.

**BR:** How often would you say you're on the road for camps, showcases, and games?

**Simmons:** On average I'm on the road about three weekends of every month, and occasionally I'll be on the road during the week. In December I'm pretty much gone the whole month, except for Christmas, because of all-star games and All-American games. It's a very travel-intensive schedule.

**BR:** Let's talk about the MBA recruits: Brad Bars, Andrew Fletcher, and Fitz Lassing. What's your opinion of each one?

**Simmons:** I think it's a great group. I think Brad Bars is maybe the best athlete in the group. I think he's got a lot of upside, but he may be a little bit undisciplined right now. He's one of those guys college coaches like to get because they think you can coach you up if you have the athletic ability. Fitz seemed like the heart and soul of that team. He's a guy that has tons of intangibles and his biggest problem right now is that he doesn't have a position: FB, TE, DL, and LB are all possibilities. He's just a football player: you can't really fit him into a box. And then Andrew Fletcher, what can you say? He's made a ton of clutch kicks for MBA through the years. If anybody has really earned it, it's he.

**BR:** Can you step us through the star rankings? It can be confusing at times for an MBA student for example, who might see a Fitz Lassing or a Brad Bars dominate a game, but they're both only two stars. How can you go about differentiating and fine tuning the rankings?

**Simmons:** It's definitely an imperfect process. It essentially starts with us

identifying an initial group of players that we consider elite. Right now we have that list as our "250 to Watch." We'll change that list up in the spring and start assigning stars then. The hardest thing for people to understand about the process is seeing a kid who dominates a game, and they automatically assume he should be a four-star. I think it's hard for people to grasp how many kids are out there and how many different levels of football there are. From a skill player standpoint, the best player in the state of Tennessee is usually going to be just another guy in Florida. People have a hard time wrapping their heads around that because they don't see these kids. It's never going to be perfect, but we feel like we put more resources and travel time into it than anyone else. We're in a unique position to make a call on these guys.

**BR:** How many *rivals.com* guys are involved in determining the stars for the recruits?

**Simmons:** There are six of us that actually sit down and hash out the rankings. I'm the main voice for the Southeast and Texas right now. We do six-hour conference calls for three or four days, hashing out the rankings. It's necessary to get the best rankings possible.

**BR:** Is there some secret formula to the ratings, or is it pretty subjective?

**Simmons:** It's extremely subjective because even at the high school level you don't know how a player is going to develop. A 4.4 forty-yard dash time doesn't mean anything, because we don't know where that came from and how it was timed, so it's really tough for us to make a determination based on stats, forty times, or size. That's definitely one of the biggest challenges. If a player is putting up huge numbers in Texas, should he be ranked higher than a player putting up marginal numbers in Tennessee



**Simmons (3) while at Yale. The MBA grad is a senior editor of *rivals.com*.**

but who's running a 4.3 forty? It's tough to make those judgments.

**BR:** The main purpose of rivals is for the fan, but do you think college coaches utilize *rivals.com* and its database?

**Simmons:** Every college program in the country has a subscription to our site. The main way it's utilized is as an information gatherer. If they hear about a player, a lot of times what they'll do is look him up on *rivals* and see if he's in there. Then they'll go from there and do more due diligence. I don't think you'll ever hear of a coach offering a kid just because he's a *rivals* three-star or four-star. That's irresponsible on their part if they are. I know that college coaches follow our national rankings in terms of where they finish on Signing Day. I guarantee you that USC was following it all day long to see if they could get the top spot. It's another resource for college programs. They'd be dumb not to use it.

vancouver 2010

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## Poetess A.E. Stallings earns Timo's respect



A.E. Stallings, a native of Georgia and resident of Greece, has caught the attention of MBA's leading student literary critic.

By Thomas "Timo" Moore  
Oxford Bound

I first encountered the work of A.E. Stallings while browsing through the current issue of *Poetry Magazine* in February 2009. I was on a quest to define contemporary poetic tastes and styles, and I was largely dissatisfied by what I found. I had begun my

search several months earlier with, perhaps, inflated expectations. A poetic voice of the times, something resounding, universal, eternal, a poet whose work would stand as the hallmark of my generation while, at the same time, presenting truths that represent all of humanity. Such were the lofty thoughts that haunted my search as I flipped through the coarse paper of the latest *Poetry*

*Magazine.*

I knew that magazine as an avant-garde harbinger of contemporary poetry, a forum for such revolutionary articles as Pound's 1913 essay "A Few Don'ts by an Imagist". I anxiously searched the pages for something new but universal. I had only so far uncovered individualized confessional poetry, lines amateurish in the truest sense. Nothing echoed on a large scale.

It is significant that I discovered my Holy Grail in an issue of *Poetry* commemorating Futurism, an artistic and social movement of the early 20th century that exalted action and violence in an attempt to usurp conventional *mores*. The Italian writer Filippo Tommaso Marinetti had launched the movement in 1909 with the publication of his *Futurist Manifesto*, a candid message which exhorted the reader to make "courage, audacity, and revolt," the chief elements of poetry, "to sing the love of danger," and to declare "the beauty of speed."

At some point in my journey for a contemporary poetic voice, I wouldn't have been disappointed to have run across a 21st-Century Marinetti. What I did discover was far from Marinetti's rally to violence, far from his loathing of tradition, but it was a manifesto of sorts. In fact, the title of the article I uncovered somewhere within the glossy covers of *Poetry* in February 2009 was stylishly evocative of Marinetti: "Presto Manifesto!"

At the time, I felt (and still do) that what poetry needed was a fresh start in a style that reflected something of contemporary anxiety, yet did not shy away from the past. I felt that such a fusion of past and present had perhaps died away with Pound, Eliot, and Yeats. This ability to assert an adherence to traditional verse form with the urgent call of a revolutionist was what originally attracted me to "Presto Manifesto!", an article written by A.E. Stallings, a poetess of whom I had previously no knowledge. The article itself unfolded in short, choppy fragments, assertive and jarring in their urgency. No doubt the author intended some

degree of irony in light of the article's title and the issue's Futurist theme; however, I did not fail to sense the sincerity of the words as she repeatedly asserted the right of contemporary poems to rhyme! What a revolutionary thought in a world where lines such as Kay Ryan's "The whole ball/ of who we are/presses into/the green baize/ at a single tiny/spot" are all too common and, now, mundane. Now A.E. Stallings was stepping up to the plate, as it were, and asserting that "[r]hyme is at the wheel. No, rhyme is the engine."

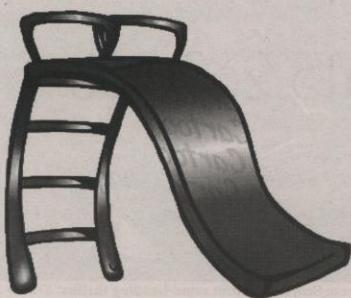
In a tone almost like Pound's, who, in his 1913 article, commanded the poet to "[u]se no superfluous word, no adjective, which does not reveal something," Stallings was now informing her audience that "[r]hymes do not need to be hidden or disguised: they are nothing to be ashamed of." Pound said, "That part of your poetry which strikes the imaginative eye of the reader will lose nothing by translation into a foreign tongue; that which appeals to the ear can reach only those who take it in the original." Stallings was now saying, "Translators who translate poems that rhyme into poems that don't rhyme solely because they claim keeping the rhyme is impossible without doing violence to the poem have done violence to the poem. They are also lazy."

I had found a contemporary versifier not afraid to voice the unpopular, just as Pound and all memorable literary innovators had done before her. My interest in Stallings' article naturally led me to uncover more of her work and ideas, and, eventually, I developed a correspondence with her that still continues. Her poetic agenda, coupled with her accessibility and willingness to debate literature with an amateur such as I, identify Stallings as an actively engaged poet and teacher of her times, a contemporary Pound or Yeats.

*Note: this article is taken from Thomas' AP English profile project.*

## Senior Slide

A statistician's approach



Days until Spring Break

14

Days until Graduation

91

Remaining percent of high school career

6.77%

Days left for the average seventh-grader

1211

## Ru San's sushi-rave fusion worth the wait

By Blake Burns  
Staff Food Reviewer

For my third review I thought I would mix things up a little bit. After dining at two solid American restaurants, I felt it was time for a change. So, this week I went to Ru San's Sushi and Seafood. This trendy Japanese sushi bar was a very unique experience to me, for before coming here, the most sushi I had ever had was a California Roll.

Walking in the restaurant at 12:30 on a Saturday afternoon, I thought that there would surely be plenty of open tables. I was wrong. In just the first thirty minutes of its day, the restaurant was already packed. So, after admiring the modern architecture and listening to a few techno mixes of the Black Eyed Peas and Rihanna, I was seated.

I went up to the buffet and was awed. I saw all this sushi, but I had abso-

lutely no idea what most of it was. After some great help from my waiter, I was set. I had a medley of California Rolls, Crunchy Shrimp, Spicy Tuna and Volcano Rolls.

Then I headed over to the hot food bar and added some fried rice and chicken to my plate. I also learned that eating with chopsticks is not an easy task. My waiter saw me struggling and, with scarcely concealed scorn, he brought me a fork....thank goodness. The sushi was excellent and very high quality. The best part about Ru San's, in my opinion, was its price. For an all-you-can-eat sushi and hot food buffet it was only \$9.75 plus tax!

Ru San's is located in the Gulch at 505 12th Ave. South. It's a very trendy place with lots of rave-like music and a cool lounge feeling. Ru San's is a premier place to go to hang out and get a fantastic price on some great sushi as well.



Su Ran's offers more than enough sushi choices at their all-you-can-eat buffet. For those more adventurous than the Food Review Team, the techno-blazing sushi bar is both inexpensive and a good place to hang out.

### Music

## Transference aims to expand the Spooniverse



By Daniel Smith  
Staff Writer

Spoon is of a rare breed in music: those few bands or musicians with a marked reputation for reliability. In the past decade alone, the Texas-based group released four critically successful records, many of which

appeared in various publications' end-of-the-decade lists.

Occasionally, though, consistency backfires and appears redundant. When Spoon's new album *Transference* leaked to the internet in early January, diehard fans wrote it off as "just another good Spoon album" because it failed to live up to its incredible hype. The general consensus would later follow suit, agreeing with the pre-release complaints. I used to fear that Spoon were on the verge of becoming overrated. Now I fear the opposite.

Granted, *Transference* sounds nothing like 2007's superb *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga*. Here I will echo the majority of critics – fans seeking the accessibility of Spoon's last album will be sorely, sorely disappointed. *Transference* is stark naked in comparison. Because *Ga Ga* was so riddled with hooks and this latest release takes a more stripped approach, many reviewers have overreacted at the band's stylistic arc and boldly accused

*Transference* of lacking any catchiness whatsoever. However, such claims are untrue. There are plenty of hooks to go around; one just has to be patient and let them reveal themselves.

Lead single "Written in Reverse" is a pure rocker, for example, embracing the signature raw-yet-intentional Spoon sound. "Got Nuffin," too, exudes a certain pop sensibility.

A majority of the album, though, does stray from the band's traditional rock formula. The one-two punch of "The Mystery Zone" and "Who Makes Your Money?" has the group exploring reverb-heavy psychedelic atmospheres, a true departure from

their earlier sound. "Goodnight Laura" is a ballad, a rarity in the Spooniverse.

"Trouble Comes Running" takes influence from The Velvet Underground's undercooked *White Light/White Heat*. "Out Go the Lights" features some of vocalist Britt Daniel's most melancholy performances to date. Closer "Nobody Gets Me But You" incorporates a smooth, funky bassline around sonic experimentation akin to The Beatles' "Tomorrow Never Knows."

Indeed, there's a lot of stuff going on throughout *Transference*. And here's the thing: it's not a letdown at all.

3.5 / 5



### Film

## Shutter Island boasts strong acting, surprises

By Trey Howard  
Staff Writer

Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island* is so deceptive, so mysterious that explaining even the most basic of details becomes difficult. Every plot point is capable of being a major revelation, and the major revelations are the film's greatest aspect.

With *Shutter Island*, knowing as little as possible about the movie will prove more rewarding once you finally watch it. What is left to discuss about the film is its indelible impact, its masterly direction, and its emotionally-charged performances that bring real drama and suspense to an arresting story adapted from Dennis Lehane's novel.

The art direction and set design are fantastic, creating an island so dark and forbidding that it's hard to imagine seeing it as a mental facility from the character's standpoint, rather than the horror device that it becomes.

Leonardo DiCaprio headlines a cast loaded with enough strong actors to populate three films, and fittingly, DiCaprio gives the strongest performance. Ben Kingsley and Max Von Sydow are perfect as the enigmatic doctors and heads of Shutter Island.

The score is effectively scarce at times and thundering at other times, providing the tone for what otherwise could be a very elusive film.

Martin Scorsese's direction crafts scenes that are tense and sometimes bizarre, but also keeps the film moving at a taut pace.

If *Shutter Island* had been released at its previously scheduled October of 2009 date, it would be included in many of this year's Academy Award categories. As it is, we should be grateful there is a superb movie for us to watch in the sub-par movie month of February.

For anyone who wants to go to the movie theater but doesn't care for the glossy



Another dizzying scene from Scorsese's latest mind-bending thriller, *Shutter Island*. If you're among the first to see it, don't spoil the plot twists!

romantic comedies being offered this time of year, see *Shutter Island*, brace yourself for some tense scenes, but don't spill its secrets to your friends.

## The Dynamic Duo had to give up a Sunday for this

By Richard Wall and Thompson Barr  
The Food Review Team

"Food is an important part of a balanced diet." The MBA Food Review Team strongly believes in this quote, but we like to add the word *great* before *food* and replace *important* with *most excellent*. Well, we have found several most excellent places for food this school year, and we have found yet another, hiding in plain sight on White Bridge Road.

### O'Charley's

All right, so it's not the most original idea for a food review, but to be honest, we don't have a lot of time on our hands. Besides, when is the last time you actually went to O'Charley's? Anyway, O'Charley's, founded in Ireland in 1439, is a very nice restaurant, and, although crowded at lunchtime, we were seated right away.

The service was good, but again, we were there during the lunch rush, so the food took a little while to get out.

If you've ever been there, you don't need me to tell you how amazing the rolls are. If you haven't, let me tell you, the rolls are amazing. No matter how bad life can get, dear reader, you can rely on the little basket of rolls that you get before your main course to pick up your spirits and make you feel better than ever.

For the entrée R-Dubs got the chicken tenders with fries, which, as they say, "hit the spot." Yes indeed, this "spot" wasn't

merely hit, but blown away like Alderaan in a rematch with the Death Star. It was really good, and it was definitely worth the 10 dollars it cost.

T-Barr had a nice double entrée platter of breaded shrimp and steak; although the shrimp tasted slightly whole-wheatish, the sirloin was excellent and cooked exactly the way he likes it: RAW! (Actually, that isn't true, because he got medium rare, but just go with it.) O'Charley's does have one weak point, in that it sells Pepsi products instead of Coke. Not to worry, because, in our opinion, the lack of Coke is more than compensated by the delicious meal. They also have Dr. Pepper as an option for you Pepsi-haters like us. One offer that caught our eye but we didn't try was the 2 meals for \$14.99 deal.

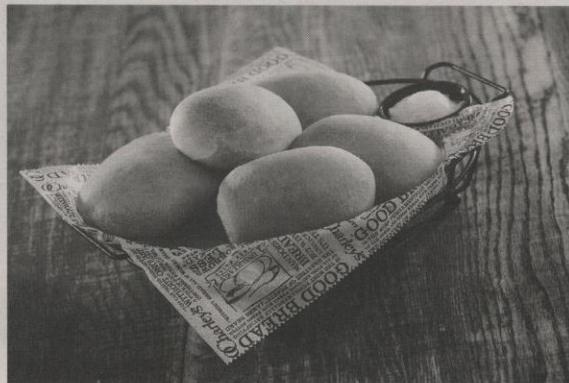
Overall, 10/10, we highly recommend O'Charley's.

### Miscellaneous

Like all non-stupid people out there, we, the Montgomery Bell Academy Food Review Team, did not limit ourselves to a simple meal. As Sgt. Four-Leaf Tayback said in his venerable work of art entitled *Tropic Thunder*, "I'm a rooster illusion."

While that has no relevance to our activities, be assured, dear reader, that we were ready to experience far more than a single meal. Immediately following O'Charley's, the dynamic duo traveled to Centennial Park to partake in what is called "Frisbee

throwing." At the park, the men started discussing recently viewed movies. However, the discussion soon morphed into an argument about whether *Step Brothers* or *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* was a better picture. R-Dubs cited the interactions between Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly as a reason for SB's dominance. When T-Barr failed to come up with any positive attribute to PJ, he did not admit defeat but rather sprinted to his car and drove off without R-Dubs. Upon T-Barr's return to the park,



The delicious rolls of O'Charley's, the bread-and-butter of conveniently located American restaurants. No danger of food-poisoning here - always a plus.

the argument was settled as a tie.

The team finally journeyed to Moe's, where they ate second lunch. We assume that all of you have been to Moe's, and are knowledgeable that it is awesome. Thus, we will not waste your Smoothie King coupon-clipping time reviewing it.

As you can see, dear reader, we have a different spice to each article we write, and this one has a distinctive flavor. And if we were to taste this flavor, we would probably give it a 6.939/10. Pretty good, eh?



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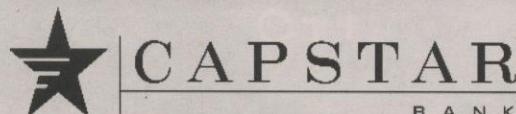
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moes.com

## Seniors enjoy support in swimming championship

*continued from page 1*

Mike Dobbs, who has instilled a work ethic and togetherness in his swimmers that is difficult to replicate.

Jack Murfee has signed to swim next year at the University of Virginia. He explained, "I chose Virginia because it was the most appealing to me in terms of academics and athletics. Virginia is currently ranked 8th in the nation, and they finished 9th in NCAAs tourney."

Pat Killian will attend Yale and swim in the Ivy League. "My general impression is of high achievement without the unnecessary stress of academic competition. I'm excited to live, study, and train there at Yale," Killian said.

Paradoxically, Seth Akers-Campbell will compete against Killian in the Ivy

League while swimming for Brown. Explaining his decision, Seth said, "I loved the city of Providence and the Brown campus, and I felt that the swim team members were great people who shared with me a similar outlook on being a student-athlete."

The Big Red will miss all of its graduating seniors as it looks to defend its state title in 2011, but strong lower classes will make the team a threat again as MBA tries to turn its first state title into many more.

(Right) Seth Akers-Campbell, Pat Killian, and Jack Murfee commit to D1 teams on Signing Day. These senior captains were grateful to have three talented classes behind them at state. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman



## Daniel Todd adds state title to impressive résumé



## Ultimate tests its mettle in Polar Bear tourney

By Tom Markham  
Staff Sports Writer

The MBA Ultimate Frisbee team woke up bright and early on Saturday, February 13, to compete in the Polar Bear Ultimate tournament in Chattanooga. This high school tournament consisted of teams from all over the Southeast, including the likes of Cincinnati's Moeller High School, among other schools from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Weather conditions did not make the play easy. The team played its first game against Blackman High School on a field of snow and ice. Once the snow melted, however, conditions became worse, as the soaked field was torn up into a mud-pit by the early afternoon.

Despite grueling conditions, the MBA Banditos had an overall impressive showing, going 4-2 on the weekend, and only falling in extremely competitive games to the athletic L.C. Bird from Virginia and to arch-rival USN.

Despite these two tough losses, the team was pleased overall with their performance. The four victories were complete blowouts, the smallest margin of victory being 7 points. Other victories included 13-1

over Ridgeland High of Georgia and 13-0 over L.C. Bird's B-Team.

While the team would have liked to have pulled out the victories against L.C. Bird and USN, all the players agree there is potential for this team to do big things heading into the state tournament later this spring. Especially in the heart-breaking losses, there was a new sense of teamwork and sideline spirit which not only almost carried the team to two impressive comeback wins, but also inspired individual players to turn up the intensity on the field.

The games against USN and L.C. Bird were strewn with big catches, smooth offense, and, most importantly, layout defense in crucial points. The team showed great spirit and resilience throughout the tournament, and this spirit was not dampened by the miserable weather but was, instead, inspired to play harder.

Highlights of the tournament included a long touchdown catch by freshman superstar David "DAAAAAAAVVVVEEEEEE" Maynard, John Elam's sacrificing his own face to play defense, solid offensive handling from Sam Moxley and Mitchell Shope, "unbelievable" layout defense from Will Baker, and Coach Michael Griffin's enviable Cracker Barrel run.

### A Student Profile

By Alex Apple  
Co-Sports Editor

Senior wrestler Daniel Todd has wrapped up another state title for the Big Red in 2010. Taking the individual wrestling state title at 160 pounds, Daniel recorded the third state championship of the school year (after the cross country and swimming/diving teams).

He wrestled Chase Martino of McCallie in the state finals and won what was a very hard fought match. Daniel had been favored to win the state as a junior after an undefeated regular season, but he fell just

short and was state runner-up.

This year under sufficient pressure to break through and take the state title, he succeeded. He was chosen to be a senior captain and successfully finished in the top 4 in the state for his weight class all four years of high school.

Though still weighing his college options, Daniel has chosen not to wrestle collegiately.

He is also a member of Cum Laude and the King Society and is a Student Council officer and National Merit Finalist.

Daniel Todd will be missed by the wrestling team next season, but others such as Mark Simpson have their eyes on a state title for next year.

(Left) Daniel surrounded by admirers. The National Merit Finalist recently won an individual state wrestling title. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)



The Ultimate Team, or Los Banditos, battled harsh conditions and stiff competition at the Polar Bear Tournament in Chattanooga. In its few losses, the team gained valuable experience for later in the season. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

With dedicated coaching from Coach Roderick Russ and inspiring Zen from Coach Griffin, there is a very strong chance that you, the reader, will be hearing about a repeat state championship from MBA's Los Banditos later this spring.

## Adkins plans the route for new climbing team

By George Swenson  
Staff Sports Writer

With the first MBA climbing season now underway, I caught up with senior Chris Adkins, captain and founder of the climbing club, to discuss this recent addition to MBA athletics.

**Bell Ringer:** How did you first come across the sport of climbing?

**Chris Adkins:** I was introduced to climbing by a fellow student, John Michael McGinn, when I was 16 years old and have been climbing ever since.

**BR:** What inspired you to begin a climbing club at MBA?

**CA:** Once I really got into the sport, I wanted to be able to do it year-round. I started by working out a deal with former athletic director Mr. Guth, in which I would run concession stands once or twice a week in order to receive a sports credit for climbing. After I had talked to some students to generate interest and found a faculty sponsor, Spanish teacher Señor Gray, I was able to form the Climbing Club Team, which was a great way to introduce more students to climbing. This year marks the first year that MBA adopted an actual climbing team run by history teacher, Mr. Samuel Lester.

**BR:** Are there any upcoming tournaments this year?

**CA:** We have not had any inter-scholastic competitions simply because there are not enough schools involved yet. However, several members of the team have competed in ABS (American Bouldering Series) events in the past. Last year I was fortunate enough to place 1<sup>st</sup> in two local competitions, 2<sup>nd</sup> in regional competition, and 20<sup>th</sup> in the National Invitational Competition, which was held in Boulder, Colorado.

**BR:** How is the winner chosen in climbing competition?

**CA:** Despite what many people think, climbing is NOT scored on 'whoever climbs the wall the fastest.' Each category (Recreational, Intermediate, Advanced, and Open) has 10 routes numbered 1-10 with the points increasing in difficulty and point value. Whoever climbs the most difficult routes in each category is declared the winner.

**BR:** Do you hope to broaden the scope of climbing throughout MBA and other schools?

**CA:** I do hope that other schools will begin to form teams of their own, so we will be able to compete against other rival schools as we do in other MBA sports.

**BR:** Do MBA students receive a sports credit for participating in climbing?

**CA:** Yes, the MBA climbing team is now an official sport, so every student who participates will receive a credit. As of 2010 there are two climbing seasons: winter and

spring.

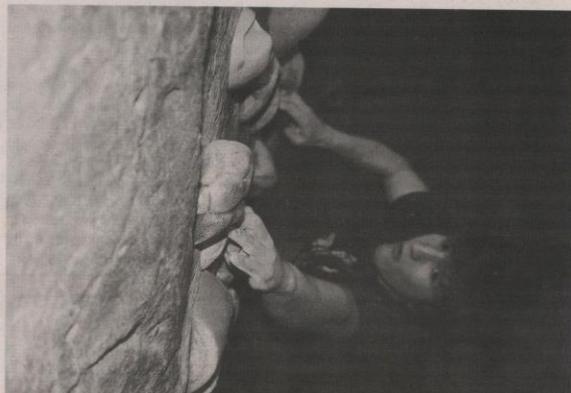
**BR:** Do you hope that this club will be continued after you graduate?

**CA:** Yes, I do hope that the climbing team will continue. I think the best way to ensure the survival of the sport at MBA is to get as much interest as possible.

**BR:** Is there anything else you would

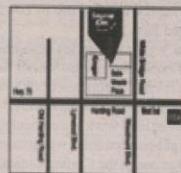
like to say about the sport climbing?

**CA:** Since climbing is relatively unknown I would recommend that everyone at least stop by Climb Nashville to see what it is all about. I guarantee that it is a lot different and much more fun than you would think.



Chris Adkins ('10), a nationally ranked climber, practices at ClimbNashville. Chris has worked with the athletic department over the past two years to establish a team and secure sports credits for climbing. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

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# Curling

A Sport of Strategy, Class, and Most Excellent Hosiery

## A (Very) Brief History

By Richard Wall  
(Nearly) Certified Curling Historian

Who remembers the scene in *Braveheart* when William Wallace and his friend throw stones? Well, that was several hundred years before curling came into being. Curling is thought to have been invented in late medieval Scotland. Two curling stones were uncovered in Dunblane, Scotland, one inscribed with the date 1511, and the other 1551. The sport is visible in several 16<sup>th</sup> century paintings, such as *Return of the Hunters* (shown - see arrow), by Flemish master Pieter Bruegel.

In the early history of curling, the

playing stones were flat-bottomed river stones that could be notched. The thrower relied more on luck than skill to win, unlike today's reliance on skill and strategy. He had as much control over the stone as a baby turtle has over the weather.

Curling was popular in Scotland between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the good ice conditions every winter. Now, curling is dominant in Canada, brought there by Scottish immigrants. Today, curling is played all over the universe. Curling has been an Olympic Sport since the 1998 Winter Olympics, but there was curling in the 1924 Olympics, which was originally called "International Winter Sports Week."



Bruegel's *Return of the Hunters*

It wasn't until 2006 that these games were recognized as Olympics.

So although it has no connection with William Wallace, or freedom in general, curling is still pretty cool.

### Reasons why Curling rocks:

- 1) It's not male figure skating.
- 2) It is perfectly acceptable to scream "die!" at your teammates.
- 3) The US women's squad is pretty attractive.
- 4) You can throw a "hammer."
- 5) You can curl in a wheelchair.
- 6) You can curl while pregnant.
- 7) The awesome pants of the Norwegian men's team.
- 8) The fan with a painted face and a cowbell.
- 9) The pun "why curling rocks."
- 10) Jason Smith. (see below)

### Admitted downsides:

- 1) Germany's women's team
- 2) Germany's women's team's screaming
- 3) The USA's generally lackluster performance at the Vancouver Games
- 4) You can curl while pregnant

## Jason Smith: Bringing good looks and athleticism to US Curling

By Seth Akers-Campbell  
Curling Enthusiast

Jason Smith certainly stands out among the athletes sliding around on the Curling sheet at the Vancouver Olympics. He is young, handsome, and athletic. Through challenging the stereotype of the overweight, middle-aged curler, Smith has become a pioneer and paved the way for Americans who are neither overweight nor middle-aged to embrace one of Canada's national pastimes. To the millions of physically fit Americans, Jason Smith is a hero.

Jason Smith can be considered an unlikely hero. Smith, or "Smitty" as he is known on the sheet, was originally uninterested in Curling, as he originally failed to appreciate the classiness of the internationally contested event and believed that he was too young and athletic to participate in it. One can imagine the 13-year-old Smith scorning the great sport of Curling (which is, without a doubt, an "organized, competitive, and skillful physical activity requiring commitment and fair play"), unable to believe that he, too, could hit stones with the greatest Curlers on the face of the earth during the earth's greatest contest of all, The Olympic Games. Perhaps he failed to feel the spark of life rushing through his veins as he swept the snow off of the front porch of his home in Chisholm, Minnesota, or he failed to feel the passion raging in his heart as he played shuffleboard at the local retirement home.

The young Jason Smith considered himself a hipster, sporting a budding goatee, listening to Hip Hop, and watching *House* on a regular basis. Smith, like many Americans, believed he was far too cool to Curl. However, something changed when Smith's friends brought him to the local curling club. Smitty fell in love with the ice, finally realizing his potential as a Curler, and, perhaps, imagining himself as the Vice-Skip of the 2010 United States Olympic



### Curling Squad.

He spent hours and hours throwing stones from the hack of the Duluth Curling Club in order to perfect his form, therefore increasing his testosterone levels and facilitating facial hair growth, simultaneously improving Curling skill and physical appearance. He swept throughout his entire childhood, not only on the Curling sheet, but also anywhere else that needed sweeping, such as a garage or a deck. Smith became a master of strategy, studying the graceful and often confusing tactics of great curlers like Garry Van Den Berghe, Bent Anud Ramsfjell, and Wang Fengchun.

Smith gradually overcame all the adversity faced by an athletic Curler and evolved into a champion, winning Junior Nationals in 2004 and establishing himself and the future of men's Curling in America. Now 25 years old, Smith has already accumulated a lifetime's worth of accomplishments: two United States Junior National Championships, a National Championship, a fifth-place finish at the World Curling Championships, a spot on the 2010 United States Olympic Team, a stunning goatee, awe-inspiring sideburns, and a small army of cowbell-wielding face-painted fans.

Raised from a young age by his grandfather, surely a saintly and encouraging man whom Smith refers to as his "best friend," Jason describes himself in three words: "competitive," "trustworthy," and "hard-worker." And that hard work has certainly paid off, seeing as the right-handed third was named by *The Huffington Post* as one of the Curling Cuties, "15 Irresistible Vancouver Olympics Curlers."

Any MBA student will tell a child ignorant of Curling's refined techniques and strategies that seeing Smith's diamond stud earring with the glare of the ice is, in fact, the most enjoyable way to spend a lunch period. "Never say 'never,'" one might tell that small child. "Jason Smith, the world's most athletic curler, taught me that."

### Rules and Vocabulary for the Average Spectator:

-Two teams of four (the lead, second, vice-skip, and skip, in increasing importance) compete on the sheet (ice) at once.

-The shooting team member shoots the rock from the hack, and two sweepers follow it down, sweeping with brooms to decrease friction and thus to maintain (but not to increase) the rock's speed.

-A member of the non-shooting team may sweep the rock after it has crossed the halfway line of the house (painted circles).

-The skip, or captain, calls the shots to be played and usually shoots the hammer (the final rock).

-Each team throws eight rocks in an end (round); a game consists of ten ends (with extras added in case of a tie); points are scored at the end of each end.

-Scoring is based on proximity to the center of the house: the team closest to the center scores one point; the team earns an additional point for each rock before the opposing team's closest rock.